

Integrating Writing Across Subjects

The practice guide *Teaching Elementary Students to Be Effective Writers* recommends dedicating a minimum of one hour a day for students to write. This writing time, however, does not need to be part of a dedicated writing block and can instead occur in the context of other content-area instruction.

Either independently or in a small group, brainstorm writing projects that align with math, science, or social studies standards and objectives. These projects should deepen students' content-area knowledge while also enabling them to practice key steps of the writing process: planning, drafting, and revising. Writing across content areas also allows students to explore writing in multiple formats, such as a lab report, a diary entry, or a poster. Allowing students to choose what format of writing they use can also give students a sense of voice and encourage an engaged community of learners.

Using the template below, identify content-area topics that lend themselves to writing, along with possible formats for writing projects related to those topics. The topics should be consistent with the curriculum being implemented in those subjects. Challenge yourself to identify topics across multiple content areas including specials, and across multiple times of day such as morning meetings.

Writing projects across content areas

Topic	Writing project idea 1	Writing project idea 2	Writing project idea 3
Example featuring science content-area topic: Weather	Create a poster detailing the characteristics of a particular type of storm.	Write a newspaper article about the effects of the particular type of storm chosen for this project.	Tally the weather conditions over the course of the week. Write a report summarizing your findings.